

**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 8
THIRD QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW**

Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Madison
Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 8 during third quarter 2003 was 112,471 a decrease of 1.6% from the second quarter 2003, and a decrease of 1.2% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in 10 of the 20 NAICS sectors from the second quarter 2003. The largest percentage increase of 12.7% was in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

Average quarterly employment data for third quarter 2003, second quarter 2003, third quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 75. Health Care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 8 with 19,897 employees, or 17.7% of total employment. Ouachita was the leading parish with 70,109 employees, or 62.3% of total employment.

Total wages increased 0.9% from the same period in 2002 and decreased 3.9% from the second quarter 2003 for an average weekly wage of \$488.78. Jackson parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$552.41.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 8 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 8" beginning on page 78.

| Parish | Avg. Wkly. Wage |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Caldwell | \$ 407.42 |
| East Carroll | 399.66 |
| Franklin | 368.96 |
| Jackson | 552.41 |
| Madison | 434.46 |
| Morehouse | 530.84 |
| Ouachita | 518.76 |
| Richland | 407.10 |
| Tensas | 425.42 |
| Union | 407.44 |
| West Carroll | 360.00 |

The number of reporting units in RLMA 8 for third quarter 2003 was 7,892.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

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MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT
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